

Coins

Will misnumbered \$1 bill pay off in value?

By Roger Boye

HERE ARE MORE questions from readers with, hopefully, helpful answers.

Q—I'm a former Chicagoan and I have a \$1 silver certificate, series 1957. The serial numbers do not match. The number in the upper right starts "G5444 . . ." while the number in the lower left reads "G5544 . . ." Could you tell me the value of the bill? — E. J., Ellenton, Fla.

A—About 10,000 series 1957 bills with mismatched numbers entered circulation, making them probably the most common of all mismatched bills. Dealers sell very fine specimens for about \$25; uncirculated bills sell for about \$45.

The error was created when an employe of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing incorrectly

set numbering devices on the printing equipment.

Q—About nine years ago, I received a 1965 clad quarter in change. The unusual thing is that one of the silver clads is missing; one side of the coin is silver and the other is copper. Could you give me an idea of the worth of such a coin? — J. B., Winfield, Ill.

A—Sorry, but it is impossible to answer your question without seeing the coin. Perhaps the outer layer of nickel and copper (not silver) was removed by someone using an acid. If so, the coin is worthless.

However, if your freak coin is the result of a minting error or defective cladding material, it would be a collector's item. Take it to at least two coin dealers for examination.

Q—My husband died more than three years

ago. I wanted to sell a set of silver ingots he had with World War II scenes stamped on them, and was told that all I could get for them was their weight in silver. I know my husband paid \$300 for the set, and I don't want to sell it for less. What can I do? — D.A., River Grove.

A—Relatively few people collect silver ingots (small, rectangular-shaped cubes usually containing one ounce of silver), at least compared with the number of people who collect coins. Thus, ingots are often difficult to sell.

Many coin dealers do so little ingot business that they will pay only for the silver content. You should check with several dealers, and perhaps you will find one who does a good ingot business and willing to pay more. Or consider placing an "ingots for sale" advertisement in a numismatic publication.